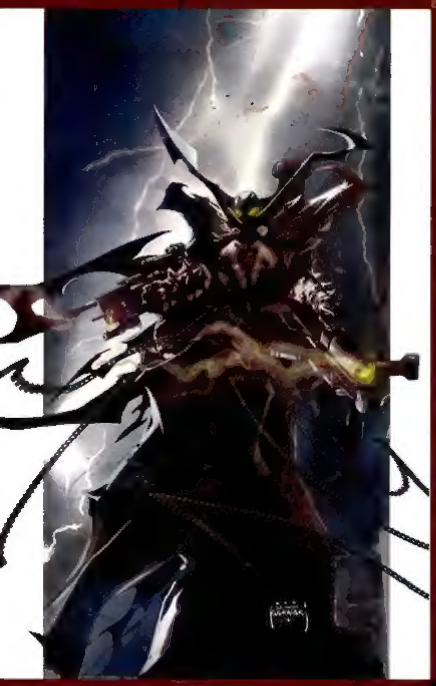
SPAWN
image
206
$2.99 US
SZYMON KUDRANSKI
-10-

Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present



JON GOFF
Plot

TODD McFARLANE
Additional Plot

WILL CARLTON
WRITER

SZYMON KUDRANSKI
ARTIST

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLOR

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Jim's unexplainable act of heroism goes viral worldwide, and he flees to the only place that makes sense to him – the alleys. The Old Guard finds him at the throne, and a battle erupts.

Back at Marc's apartment, Marc and Susan field calls from various media outlets looking to book Jim. However, the duo becomes increasingly worried since both he and Sara seem to have disappeared.

In an obscure part of Mexico, Malebolgia, dressed as a cleaned up Freak, collects another piece from a willing participant.

While Malebolgia's plan picks up speed, Clown and Bludd conspire over their strategy to take over the Spawn costume. And the Old Guard reveals why they're a feared entity.

JON GOFF
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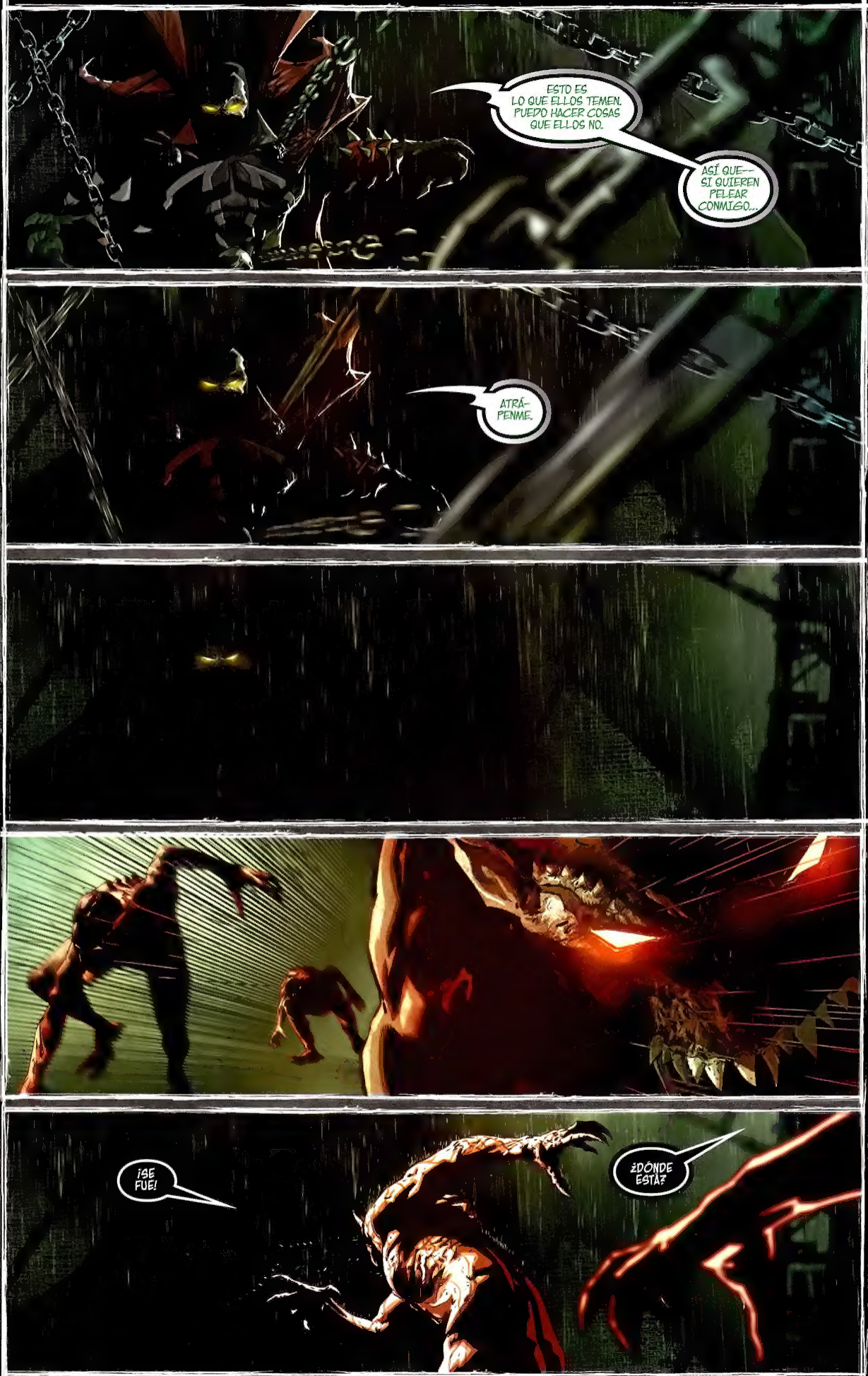
¡PELEA!
¡MALDITA SEAS! ¿¿POR QUÉ NO PELEAS??

¡SE SUPONE QUE ERES MUY ESPECIAL!
¡QUE TU PODER HARÁ LA DIFERENCIA PARA DESTRUIR A NUESTROS ENEMIGOS!
¡POR ESO NOS ENVIARON! ¡QUIEREN QUE SEAMOS TESTIGOS DE TU PODER!
¡DIJERON QUE --EN CIERTA FORMA-- ERES CAPAZ DE INCLINAR LA BALANZA DE ESTA GUERRA!
PERO-- ¡NO VEO NADA DE ESO!
¿QUÉ ES LO QUE LOS ASUSTA TANTO DE TI?

¡¡¿DE QUE TE ESCONDES?!!
CLOMP
AARRGHHHHH


ESTO ES LO QUE ELLOS TEMEN. PUEDO HACER COSAS QUE ELLOS NO.
ASÍ QUE-- SI QUIEREN PELEAR CONMIGO...
ATRÁ-PENME.
¡SE FUE!
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ?

...Y LAS AUTORI-DADES LOCALES CONTINÚAN CON UNA EXTENSA BÚSQUEDA EN LA CIUDAD.
LA BÚSQUEDA DEL SR. DOWNING, EMPEZÓ A PRIMERA HORA DE LA TARDE--
--A PARTIR DE UN ACTO MILAGROSO REALIZADO AQUÍ, EN LAS CALLES DE LA CIUDAD DE NUEVA YORK.
LIVE CNR
EL SR. DOWNING-- FRENTE A UNA MULTITUD DE TRANSEÚNTES Y CAPTADO POR LAS CÁMARAS-- APARECE CURANDO A UN HOMBRE GRAVEMENTE HERIDO, SEGÚN TESTIGOS FUE COMO UNA "IMPOSICIÓN DE MANOS" SEGUIDA POR UNA ENCEGUECEDORA EXPLOSIÓN DE LUZ.
lk show host Karlene Phillips diagnosed with terminal canc
ANTES DE VOLVER A PASAR EL VIDEO --GRABADO EN VIVO-- QUERÍA RECORDARLE A LOS ESPECTADORES QUE LO QUE ESTÁN A PUNTO DE VER ES MEDIANAMENTE EXPLÍCITO.
¿ROWAND? SOY YO, EL DETECTIVE WILLIAMS. ¿ESTÁS EN EL HOSPITAL AÚN?
SÍ. ESTOY AQUÍ. ¿Y TU DONDE ESTÁS?
TUVE QUE SALIR.
¿ALGO CON LO QUE PUEDA AYUDAR?
NO. ESTO ES ALGO QUE NECESITO HACER SOLO. PERO PUEDES HACERME UN FAVOR...

NECESITO QUE CONTROLES A SAM POR MÍ. CADA HORA, SI ES POSIBLE.
SEGURO. ACABO DE ASOMARME A SU HABITACIÓN-- ESTÁ DURMIENDO.
PERO DÉJAME PREGUNTARTE ALGO-- ¿HAS VISTO LAS NOTICIAS?
ALGO.
PARECE QUE NUESTRO CHICO HA ESTADO BASTANTE OCUPADO.

ESO SI ES UN EUFEMISMO.
Y SU COMPORTAMIENTO, ES CADA VEZ MÁS ERRÁTICO.
¿QUÉ TE HACE DECIR ESO?
QUE LO ES, PARA UN TIPO QUE TRATA DE ENCONTRAR SU PASADO. --UM... SABES LO QUE HIZO EN EL SHOW DE KARLENE PHILLIPS, ¿NO?
SÍ.
BUENO, NO SÉ SI LE GUSTA SER EL CENTRO DE ATENCIÓN PÚBLICA O NO. EN ESTE MOMENTO NO PUEDO DEDUCIRLO. POR UN LADO APARECE DELANTE DE LAS CÁMARAS NATURALMENTE Y POR OTRO SE ESCAPA DE TODO EL MUNDO.
SE MUESTRA ANTE LOS FOTÓGRAFOS, Y LUEGO SORPRENDE A TODO EL MUNDO CON SU MIERDA MILAGROSA. ¿CREES QUE SEA REAL?
NO LO SÉ, PERO NO VA A SER CAPAZ DE MANTENERSE FUERA DE LA ATENCIÓN PÚBLICA POR MUCHO TIEMPO. QUIZÁS PODAMOS HACERLE UNAS PREGUNTAS CUANDO LO ENCUENTREN.
ENTONCES-- ¿CUÁL ES EL PLÁN AHORA? PENSÉ QUE NOS ENCONTRARÍAMOS-- A COMPARAR NOTAS.
BEDFORD
BARBA BOOEY

LO HAREMOS-- PERO HAY ALGO QUE TENGO QUE HACER PRIMERO, NO DEBERÍA--
¿TIENES ALGUNA PISTA?
ESTOY EN ESO. VOY A VISITAR A UN VIEJO CONTACTO.

¿TU CONTACTO PODRÁ AYUDARNOS A ENCONTRAR A DOWNING? SERÍA MUCHO MÁS FÁCIL SI LO ENCONTRÁRAMOS ANTES QUE LOS MEDIOS, ESPECIALMENTE DESPUÉS DE LA HAZAÑA QUE HIZO HOY.
PORQUE AMBOS SABEMOS QUE SI NO LO ENCONTRAMOS PRIMERO, NO PODREMOS ACERCARNOS NI A CIEN METROS DE ÉL-- LOS FEDERALES, EL FISCAL DE DISTRITO Y CADA PUTA-ESTRELLA EN ESTA CIUDAD-- EN TODO EL ESTADO-- ESTARÁ PENSANDO CÓMO METER SUS GARRAS EN ESTA LOCURA.

LO SÉ. EL TIEMPO SE VUELVE UN ENEMIGO.
HARÉ LO MÍO Y CON SUERTE ESTARÉ DE VUELTA EN UNA HORA O MÁS. AUNQUE NO PROMETO NADA.
DEBE SER UN CONTACTO IMPORTANTE PARA QUE DEJES DE CUIDAR A SAM.
NO TENGO OTRA OPCIÓN. SÓLO QUÉDATE CON SAM-- SÓLO... ASEGÚRATE DE QUE NO LE PASE NADA. REGRESARÉ TAN PRONTO COMO PUEDA.
NO ME IRÉ DE SU LADO-- PERO, ¿TWITCH? HE ESTADO PENSANDO ALGO...
¿QUÉ COSA?
¿QUE TAL SI, TU SABES-- SI TODA ESA MIERDA QUE DICEN EN LAS NOTICIAS SOBRE DOWNING ES CIERTA? QUE ÉL ES UNA ESPECIE DE SANADOR. SI LO AGARRAMOS PRIMERO-- ÉL PODRÍA AYUDAR A TU COMPAÑERO.
ESO YA HA CRUZADO MI MENTE.
ENTONCES ESPERO POR DIOS QUE TU 'CONTACTO' SEA TAN BUENO COMO PIENSAS, Y PUEDA AYUDARNOS CON TODO ESTO.
ESO DEPENDE.
¿DE?
DE QUE ESTÉ.
¿Y SI NO ESTÁ?
POR LA SALUD DE SAM, NO QUIERO NI PENSAR EN ESO.

CUIDADO.
EL SPAWN NO SE FUE. EL SYMBIONTE USA LAS SOMBRAS PARA ENCUBRIRSE.
ESTÁ OCULTO-- INTENTANDO RECUPERARSE DEL DISPARO. SÉ QUE EL SE REGENERÓ DEMASIADO RÁPIDO.*
*Número Anterior-- Todd.
PERO NECESITA TIEMPO PARA TOMAR UN RESPIRO. HE VISTO A HELLSPAWNS HACER ESE TRUCO ANTES.
¡ESTÉN ALERTA!
PODRÍA ESTAR EN ALGUNA DE LAS SOMBRAS A SUS PIES, O EN LAS PAREDES. Y MIENTRAS MÁS ESTÉ EN LO OSCURO, MÁS FUERTE SE HACE EL SYMBIONTE.
COMO NOSOTROS ANSIAMOS LA SANGRE, EL TRAJE ANSIA ARDIENTEMENTE OSCURIDAD PARA SOSTENERSE. POR ESO SALE MAYORMENTE POR LA NOCHE.
CREE QUE ESTÁ MÁS SEGURO-- MÁS PODEROSO-- EN LAS SOMBRAS.
YA LO VEREMOS.
¿eh?
CLINK SHTIK CLINK CLINK SHTIK

¡¿HERMANOS...?!
¡EL MURO!
¡FUE SUCCIONADO POR EL MURO!
EL MURO NO...
¡LAS SOMBRAS!
¡NO IMPORTA! LO RESCATARÉ ¡DONDE QUIERA QUE ESTÉ!
KRASH

¡ESPERA!
EL SPAWN NO ESTÁ OCULTO EN LOS LADRILLOS. SE MUEVE. VIGILÁNDONOS-- ¡BURLÁNDOSE!
¡TENEMOS QUE ESTAR JUNTOS! NO DEJAR QUE NOS AGARRE UNO A UNO. ¡CONTROLA TUS IMPULSOS! ÉL INTENTARÁ SEPARARNOS.
NO LE DEMOS ESA VENTAJA.
ÉL SABE QUE TODAVÍA ES MINORÍA.
SNIK
SHEEK
CLINK

¿TIENES ALGUNA IDEA DE DONDE PUEDA ESTAR?
TENDRÍA QUE BUSCAR EN UN PAR DE LUGARES, PERO SARA DIJO QUE CUANDO ÉL SE VA, ES DIFÍCIL DE ENCONTRAR. DEBERÍAMOS TRANQUILIZARNOS-- ÉL LLAMARÁ.
¿Y QUÉ HAY DE LA POLICÍA? ¿QUÉ LES HAS DICHO?
QUE EN CUANTO APAREZCA LE HARÉ SABER QUE QUIEREN HABLAR CON ÉL. PERO, REALMENTE, ¿POR QUÉ LES VA A-- MOLESTAR QUE ÉL LE SALVE LA VIDA A ALGUIEN? ES INCREÍBLE, SON IGUAL DE ENTROMETIDOS QUE TODOS LOS QUE HAN LLAMADO HOY.
TODOS ELLOS QUIEREN UN TROZO DE ÉL. Y MEJOR AÚN, ¡ESTÁN DISPUESTOS A PAGAR POR ÉL!
¿SABES CON CUANTAS COMPAÑÍAS HE HABLADO HOY? CADA UNA LO QUIERE PARA QUE SEA EL PORTAVOZ ESTRELLA DE SU EMPRESA-- FORD, WELLS FARGO, BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD, SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, DELL, ¡LA QUE SE TE OCURRA!
¡HASTA GATORADE LO QUIERE! ESTÁN PRODUCIENDO UNA NUEVA BEBIDA 'FORTIFICADA' CURATIVA, Y HASTA TIENEN EL SLOGAN-- "PON LA VIDA DE NUEVO EN TI" ¿NO ES DEMASIADO?
Y TAMBIÉN UNA COMPAÑÍA LLAMADA MCFARLANE TOYS.
NUNCA ESCUCHÉ DE ELLOS.
YO TAMPOCO. LES DIJE QUE NO. QUE NO ESTABA INTERESADO EN SU BASURA PLÁSTICA Y BARATA. PERO EL RESTO DE ELLOS SON GIGANTES DE LA INDUSTRIA, Y NINGUNO DE ELLOS MENCIONÓ NADA POR DEBAJO DE LAS SEIS CIFRAS.
PENSÉ QUE HABÍAS DICHO QUE PRIMERO QUERÍAN UNA PRUEBA DEL PODER DE JIM.

CLARO.
ESA ES LA PARTE MÁS FÁCIL, TE LO DIGO, NENA. ¡ESTO ES TODO! ESTO ES EL COMIENZO DE LO QUE AMBOS HEMOS ESTADO BUSCANDO. PUEDO SENTIRLO. ¿LO SIENTES?
SUPONGO, ÉL TE HIZO SU NUEVO AGENTE...
MANAGER.
COMO SEA. ENTONCES CREO QUE PODEMOS..
BZZZT
ES TU TELÉFONO DE NUEVO
EL SEÑOR IMPORTANTE ESTÁ DEMASIADO CANSADO PARA CONTESTAR LLAMADAS... ¡DAME UN RESPIRO!
AQUÍ ESTÁ. ¿VAS A TOMARLO?
NO. NO. NO.
YA ESTOY MUY CANSADO POR HOY. QUE DEJE UN MENSAJE DE VOZ.
SUSAN. ESCUCHAME-- SÉ QUE NO TE HE ESTADO PRESTANDO MUCHA ATENCIÓN ÚLTIMAMENTE. Y LO SIENTO.
EN SERIO.

¡PERO ESTO...!
OPORTUNIDADES COMO ESTA NO SE DAN MUY A MENUDO, ¡NO PODEMOS DEJARLA IR! Y TE PROMETO, QUE UNA VEZ QUE ESTO EMPIECE, UNA VEZ QUE JIM LE DEMUESTRE AL MUNDO DE LO QUE ES CAPAZ, NO HABRÁ NINGUNA PUERTA CERRADA PARA NOSOTROS. ¡TÚ HAS VISTO LO QUE HIZO! LO ESTÁN LLAMANDO 'EL REDENTOR'
NUESTRA NUEVA VIDA COMENZARÁ EN EL MOMENTO QUE JIM CRUCE ESA PUERTA. TIENES QUE CONFIAR EN MÍ...

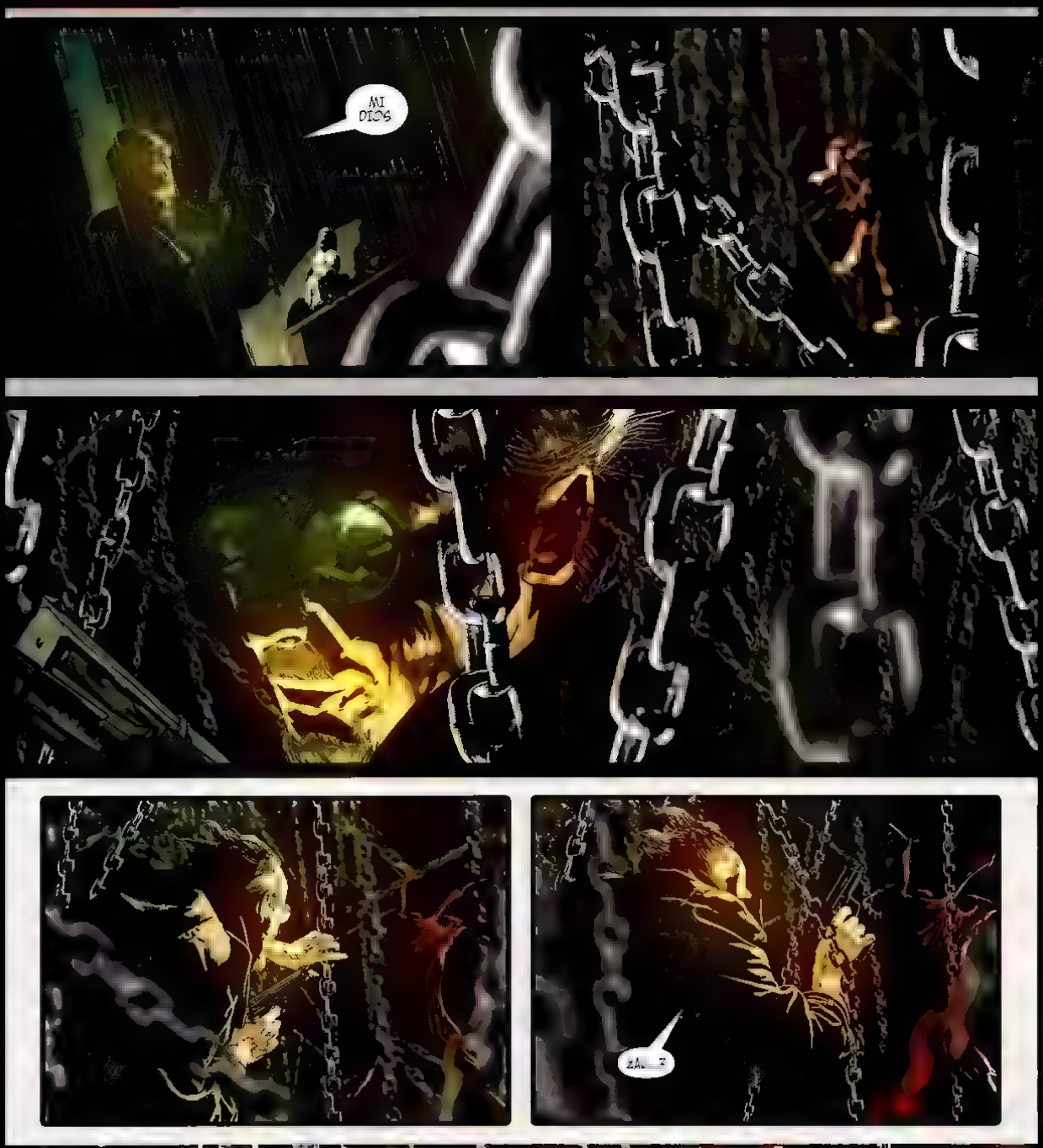
¡TENGO TODA ESTA SITUACIÓN COMPLETAMENTE BAJO CONTROL.
CLINK CLINKK SNIK
CLINKK CHINK
SK CHINK CLANK
CLINK NKK SNIK
CLINK
¡ERES... PATÉTICO!

¿QUÉ PASA? ¿NOS TIENES MIEDO?
¡ENTONCES, MUÉSTRATE!
LOS GUERREROS DE INFIERNO NO NOS ESCONDEMOS— ¡PELEAMOS! ¡DESTRUIMOS! YA QUE AL SEGUIRTE QUE GANAMOS LA GUERRA— ¡NUESTROS ENEMIGOS VIENEN A DESTRUIRNOS! ¡POR ESO ES QUE EL NOS CREE!
¡A AMBOS!
¡PORQUE SOMOS LOS BASTARDOS DE ESTA GUERRA! ¡DEFENDEMOS TODO PORQUE NO PERTENECEMOS A NADA! SOMOS LOS KRITIKOS QUE ASOMBRE DESCENDAN EL INFIERNO Y LA TIERRA. MALEBOGAIA LO QUIERE ASÍ— MANTENERNOS AL MARGEN DE TODO, IMPLICA QUE TENEMOS POCAS CHANCES DE SER CORROMPIDOS.
Y ESE VACÍO ES LO QUE NOS LLENA DE FURIA. POR ESO ES QUE SIEMPRE SEREMOS PELIGROSOS PARA ELLOS. MALEBOGAIA Y SUS ERUDITOS HABÍAN QUE SU HORA ESTÁ LLEGANDO, Y QUE TERMINAREMOS DOMINÁNDOLOS ALGÚN DÍA.
PERO SOLO PUEDE HACERLO UN DIOS Y PLANEO SER YO.
AHORA-- MUÉSTRATE... ¡COBARDE!
¡GRR!
¡GRR!
KRITCH

YEAOWW
¡CALLA!

¡YA ME ESTOY CANSANDO DE TODO ESTO
¡TODOS QUIEREN DECIRME LO QUE TENGO QUE HACER! BUENO, SE TERMINO. DE AHORA EN MAS, ¡YO DOY LAS ÓRDENES!
¡TE DIRÉ LO QUE YO QUIERO!
nee hee HEE Ha HAAAA
¡IDIOTA! ¡TU NI SIQUIERA SABES POR LO QUE PELEAS!
¿CREES REALMENTE QUE SEA GRACIOSO?
CHINK CLINK
gasp!
DÉJAME AYUDARTE CON ESA SONRISA
SPLAT

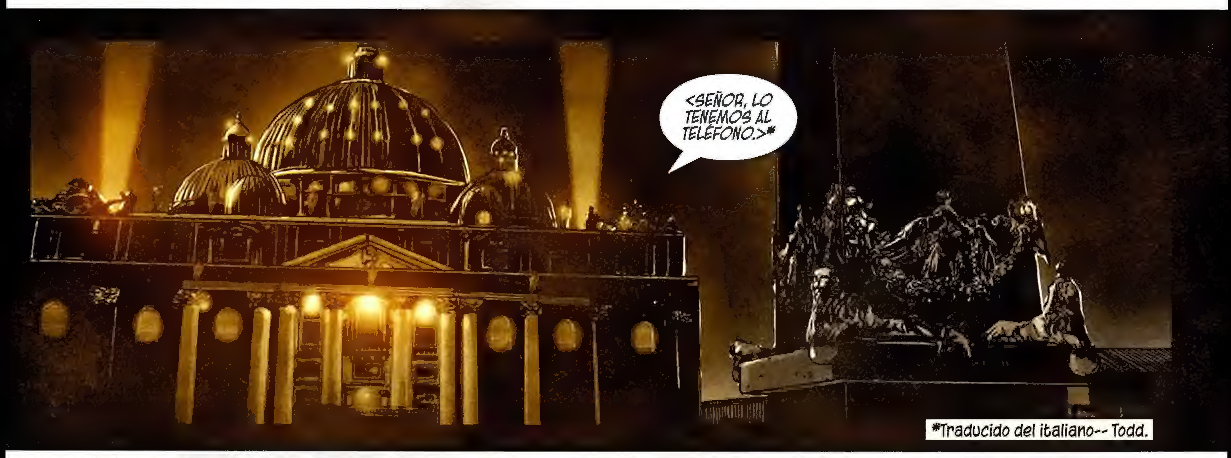
Minutos más tarde.



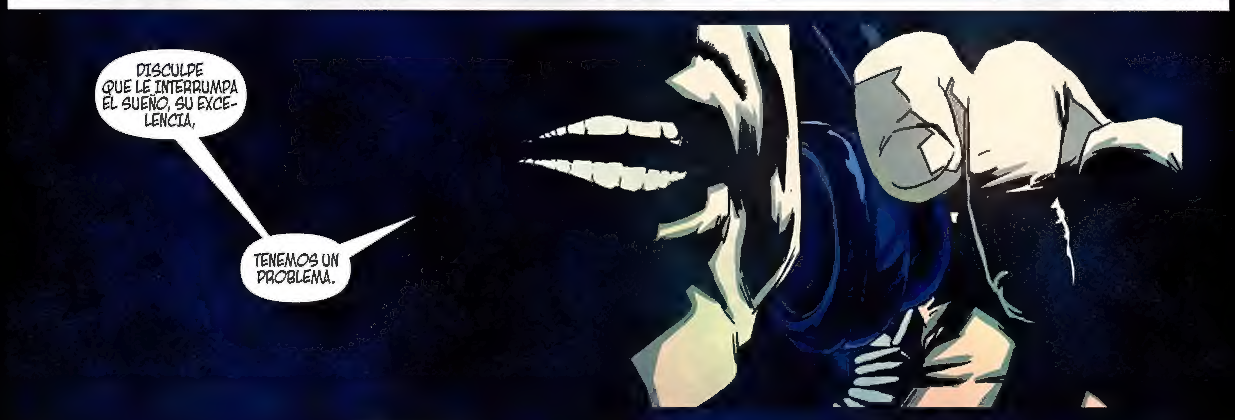
¿TÚ CREES EN DIOS?
¿HAY ALGO QUE ESTÉ MAL?
¿QUÉ?
¡TE PREGUNTÉ SI CREES EN DIOS!
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ AL?
¡RESPÓNDEME!
¿REZAS POR LAS NOCHES?
PORQUE SI LO HACES-- TE DIRÍA QUE EMPIECES--- YA QUE ¡ESTÁS A PUNTO DE MORIR!

¡¡ESTAS BAJO ARRESTO!!
YA LO HAN INTENTADO.
¡MUÉVETE Y TE VUELO LA CABEZA!

Vaticano.



*Traducido del italiano-- Todd.



Continuara

THE AFTERLIFE

McFarlane Companies' News and Information

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Halo Reach Series 3: Spartan MP Operator (detail).

Fighting on Reach is non-stop and the casualties are piling up on both sides! You call for reinforcements – but you're cut off when your Warthog turret explodes! You try to hold off the Covenant forces, but they're closing in on your position! Suddenly the four Elites closest to you fall to the ground dead. Looking over your shoulder, you see Jun in the distance – and he brought back up!

Create your own epic story, and augment your Halo action figure collection with **Halo: Reach Series 3**. This innovative series features all-new characters, boxed sets, and even upgrade packs for your vehicles.

We've got both sides of the conflict covered: for the UNSC, we have Jun, an ODST Jetpack Trooper, a Spartan with Miltary Police helmet, a female Spartan in pink armor, and more! Double up your set with a pair of **2-packs: the UNSC Support Staff and the Grenadier & Expert Marksman 2-pack**. If you want the Covenant to win the fight, then add the **Elite Spec Ops, Grunt Heavy, or Covenant Airborne 2-Pack** to your collection!

For even more firepower, upgrade your Warthog fleet with our all-new, interchangeable **Gauss Cannon and Rocket Launcher turrets**! Will you save Reach or let the planet fall? Soldier up, keep fighting and remember Reach – Halo Reach Series 3!

Halo: Reach Series 3 is available now at major retailers nationwide.

It's the story of the season in the NBA – can Miami's new trio deliver another championship to South Beach? Go show your team spirit and pick up the **Miami Heat 3-Pack** featuring Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James! Would you rather give the Miami Heat some competition? Choose from NBA's best players like Shaquille O'Neal, Amar'e Stoudemire or Steve Nash in **NBA Series 19**!

All the games count now, as Major League Baseball gets their new season underway. Get ready to hit a grand slam with Curtis Granderson, Dustin Pedroia, Albert Pujols and many more players in **MLB Series 27**! Look for the biggest stars available now in McFarlane's SportsPicks – the most realistic sports action figures ever!

Cy-gor is back and wreaking havoc in ***Spawn: Origins Vol. 10***! This soft cover collection, featuring *Spawn* issues 57-60, shows how quickly situations can deteriorate and spin wildly out of control for Al Simmons. Includes cover galleries and behind-the-scenes art by Todd McFarlane and Greg Capullo! What are you waiting for? Get your copy today!

Questions? Comments? Drop us a line @ afterlife@mcfarlane.com

TOY RELEASES IN STORES NOW

NBA Series 19
Steve Nash (Phoenix Suns)
LeBron James (Miami Heat)
Chris Bosh (Miami Heat)
Shaquille O'Neal (Boston Celtics)
Rajon Rondo (Boston Celtics)
Carlos Boozer (Chicago Bulls)
Amar'e Stoudemire (NY Knicks)

NBA 3-Pack (Miami Heat)
Chris Bosh
Dwyane Wade
LeBron James

APRIL 2010 TOY RELEASES

MLB Series 27
Stephen Strasburg (Washington Nationals)
Joe Mauer (Minnesota Twins)
Tim Lincecum (San Francisco Giants)
Curtis Granderson (New York Yankees)
Dustin Pedroia (Boston Red Sox)
Derek Jeter (New York Yankees)
Chase Utley (Philadelphia Phillies)
Albert Pujols (St. Louis Cardinals)

Halo: Reach Series 3
Jun
ODST Jetpack Trooper
Elite Spec Ops
Grunt Heavy
Spartan Military Police custom (male), (team blue)
Spartan Air Assault (female), (rose/rose)

Halo: Reach Series 3, 2-Packs
Covenant Airborne 2-Pack
Spartan Loadouts: Grenadier & Expert Marksman 2-Pack
UNSC Trooper Support Staff 2-Pack

Halo: Reach Series Vehicle Upgrade Packs
Warthog Gauss Cannon with Spartan Operator Custom (male) (steel/maroon)
Warthog Rocket Launcher with Spartan JFO Custom (male) (steel/blue)

SPAWNING GROUND

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Hi everyone,

If you've been reading our other monthly title, *Haunt*, you probably noticed the change up in the letters column. While we always try to feature those fans who take the time to write in, we've recently taken to our Facebook and Twitter pages for content in Spawning Ground.

I'm astounded by how passionate our fans are about the art, story, and character. We had some really great, in depth questions this time around.

Next issue, new series artist Szymon Kudranski joins Todd to answer your questions. Curious about Szymon's process? Want to know more about the collaboration between the two artists? Reach out to us at letterspage@mcfarlane.com, or on our Facebook and Twitter pages. There's still time to get your questions in! As always, we encourage you to speak your mind and give us your opinions.

Jen Cassidy

Managing Editor

Salutations,

When I was six years old, I did not want to learn how to read. I fought it, kicked and screamed, you name it, I did it. My dad thought it might be a good idea to combine pictures and words and in 1993 he brought me home my first comic and first issue of *Spawn*! Here I am 18 years later still a loyal reader and I have to say that I am more excited about the book than I have been in years.

Originally when I saw that yet another creative team was in the works, I had my apprehensions but the writing of Will Carlton and the art and coloring of Szymon Kudranski and Fco Plascencia has truly drawn me in, and each page makes me more anxious for the next.

More than anything, I just want you to know that I appreciate what you do and even though I have been reading *Spawn* for more than 3/4 of my life, I am still eager and giddy when I see a new *Spawn* issue on the shelf.

Cheers!

-Dura

There are two goals when you're putting out a comic book. One is to try and find new readers, and two is to continue to hold on to the ones you already have. You appear to be in the latter group. I appreciate your patience and loyalty to this title.

One of the things that can be the most enlightening or the most frustrating part of reading any comic book is when the creative team shifts on you. As a collector for decades, I understand that once you get comfortable and like the people that are doing the book, when they move on it's disappointing.

The enlightening aspect of this is, most times, a new group coming on might take the title in a superior direction or, at least, significantly different so that you feel like you're getting a different ride, and not being cheated.

I, as the guy who created this book to start with, after 200 issues, was going to shift *Spawn* into a new direction. I was even thinking of drawing the book myself, but going into this ultra realistic, film noir look. I was fortunate enough to, instead, come across somebody that was already doing that style and way more polished than I would be. That "somebody" was Szymon, who's done issues 201-to the present.

Szymon brings the look to the book that I see when I close my eyes. Szymon paired with Will makes the title feel like a film. It may not be for everyone, but I'm happy you've been flexible with us. Thanks for sticking around!

-TODD

Hey Todd,

Just finished reading issues 202 and 203. *Spawn* has generally been something of a hallmark in the world of comics, known primarily for artwork so stunning that, under the hand of you and guys like Greg, Tony Daniel, and Danny Miki, it inspired an entire generation of kids to dream of nothing more than growing up to create their own awesome comics, draw amazing capes, and see their face on a *Wizard* Top 10 list.

So after 200 issues, (and congrats on the milestone), I'm sad to see you redefining the book (...again...), and bringing to the industry yet another photo-tracer whose panels contain near-Greg Land levels of Google images. You took a book that was bursting at the seams with heaven, hell, angels, demons, CIA agents, detectives, skyscrapers, magic, mobsters, homeless bums, and yes, those incredible, mind-numbingly awesome capes, and you transformed it into a photo-collage about "realism," "talking heads," and "people talking about big melodramatic stuff" (your words).

It's your book, and I'm fully respectful of that, but you know what, Todd? We see realism all day long. It's literally everywhere. The last thing we need in a comics industry already plagued with tracing artists is more photo-traced "realism." The industry is shrinking. New readership is virtually non-existent. And why shouldn't it be? Comics have nothing to offer when all they aspire to deliver is an experience available everywhere else. Everyone is hung up on making comics "realistic" and "cinematic." You yourself have been pushing this analogy of *Spawn* as film for over 2 years now. Don't get me wrong, film is a great medium! But if you want film, make a film. As it stands, all you'll ever have with this comic book is a second-rate experience.

There's so much comics can do ... why on earth are we insisting on constraining them to be crappy substitutes for movies? This book used to make kids so excited about comics (reading them as well as creating them) that we often put aside Gameboys and Sega Genesis, shoved issues in our backpacks and brought them to school to pass around to our friends (imagine that). Those pages were a crash-course in what makes comics cool, what makes them unique from any other medium – what makes them "comics." *Spawn* was the book other books wanted to be. Now, at least where the art is concerned, it's just another book. (Regarding the writing, I will say that these are probably the most well-written issues I've read in a while, and the story is every bit as intriguing as one about two people sitting around chatting on a talk-show stage can be. Kudos to Will Carlton).

I'll leave you with what Harvey Pekar said- "You can do anything with words and pictures." It's sad that more and more often, we're doing "anything but." You could fill the pages of *Spawn* with jaw-dropping visuals people couldn't get anywhere else, and show us some intense things! Or, you can fill them with more photo-tracings of cars and heads who sit around and talk about some intense things.

I hope I didn't offend; just wanted to answer your call about thoughts and opinions on the recent changes and new direction, so there you go.

Best to you, sir.

A.D. George

Thank you very much for your letter. It's well written, and well thought out. I appreciate you, and anyone for that matter, taking the time to write a letter – even if it's in opposition to what we do.

With that said, let me say that I completely disagree with you, and here's why. The reasons you say I shouldn't be doing it, I believe are the complete opposite. The reason I believe the comic book marketplace is shrinking is because of repitition. You're asking me to continue doing what 85-95 percent of the comic books out there already do, which is making our industry shrink.

What should be happening, which is what I'm trying to do, is artists should try and give a different look to a book, instead of delivering the same look as *Captain America*, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Thor*, etc. They all have big, supervillain fights in Times Square, with big, dramatic imagery. You're absolutely right, could we draw all of that? Yes we can. Is there a lack of it in this industry? Absolutely not. I'd argue we're oversaturated.

Where there is a lack of artistic diversification, is in trying to do different things with words and pictures. I think it is too easy to do big, muscle-bound dudes in spandex, punching big villains in the face. As a matter of fact, as I get older, I get more bored with it. I've read/seen that scenario at least 10,000 times in my life. I find it hard to believe that somebody who's followed *Spawn* for twenty years, even if you started when you were twelve, looks at this comic book, and says I want it to read and look exactly the same way it did when I was twelve. Our tastes in the jobs we want, the foods we eat, the movies we see, and the clothes we have, evolve over time. You're now saying a book that's been around for twenty years should be exactly the same as it was when it began. This can only happen if one thing occurs – that the people who get bored with the repetition are getting replaced by new readers who are impressed with what was.

Sadly, our industry is not growing at the pace it was years ago. So what I need to do, is assume my audience is aging with me, and actually try to put together a book that appeals to that audience. So, I'm not trying to make the book look like a movie because I don't think people can go to the movies, it's because I believe my audience is looking for something a little more sophisticated. I may be wrong, there may be comic book collectors that want nothing but pure fantasy, but if that's what you want, there are THOUSANDS of books that serve that purpose. *Spawn* has never actually been that kind of a book, and I'm not going to make it that way.

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate it, but Szymon is doing EXACTLY what I want him to do, and EXACTLY what I was hoping he would do. If you don't like his style, I understand. However, it doesn't make him less of an artist because he's using modern technology. As a matter of fact, I've had my fill of BADLY drawn faces, that I will take a photo realistic face a thousand times over. If I have to choose realism over bad, amateur artwork, I'll choose realism every single time because I'm no longer eight, and that amateur artwork doesn't work for me anymore. I don't believe it will work for this audience, either.

Thanks for your time! Hopefully, we'll hear from you down the road to see if we're doing anything that works for you. Otherwise, I recommend you go find those big spandex books I was talking about, and continue to enjoy yourself.

-TODD

What would you say is your least favorite part of working on *Spawn* or comics in general on a daily basis?

Steve L.

The toughest thing to do day in, day out, is stare at a blank page. Once you get going and get into a groove, it's easy. However, the minute you fill the entire page, BAM, the next blank page drops, and you have to all over, and imagine new stuff. It's exciting to try and come up with stuff, but it can really be a struggle at times, when you're trying to get what's in your brain on to a piece of paper. Even if you do it, and something turns out twice as good as you imagined, as soon as you're done, another blank page replaces it.

For the rest of my natural life, if I'm drawing on a regular basis, this creative torture will be in front of me forever.

-TODD

Todd,

My favorite era of *Spawn* was about the first 100 issues. I feel *Spawn* has lost so much of his humanity, that it is difficult to care about him as a character. Can you bring him back to earth and make him a little more human, please? Please don't think I'm "hating". I've been a devoted fan of yours since the 80s.

Gabe D.

Hopefully if you've been reading the comic book since issue #185, you'll see we have a new character with the curse of the Spawn. His name is Jim Downing, and unlike Al Simmons, he actually will embrace the world, media, and social networking. Also, unlike Al Simmons who was burnt and looked like a monster, losing some of his physical humanity, this new hero is a good looking dude. He's going to become a bit of a sex symbol to some of the girls out there. He's going to enjoy the ride a little bit like a rock star, so you'll be able to see the Spawn curse come into play in a different fashion with this new character.

-TODD

NEXT ISSUE

Spawn 207
"Q&A" – PART 1 (of 4)

SPAWN vs. TWITCH! Twitch confronts Jim for the first time! But can he survive Jim's growing wrath? Meanwhile, Detective Rowand is introduced to the dark forces at work on Earth, as Sam's life hangs in the balance. A NEW story arc begins here! Old questions answered! New questions asked! And the return of a villain first brought to life in the pages of the critically acclaimed *Hellspawn* series!

*Note: Cover subject to change.